

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. There is no housing shortage in Shanghai for people of means. Apartments may be obtained through private agencies. Key money must be paid for an apartment, though this is not legal. An apartment of three rooms in the suburbs of Shanghai will cost about \$500 in local currency. It is also possible to rent apartments in luxury buildings in the center of Shanghai, but these are very expensive.
2. It is easy to find accommodation in any of the hotels and pensions of Shanghai. The Cathay Mansions Hotel at the corner of Cardinal Mercier and Bourgeat Streets, for instance, is usually empty, and it would be possible to live there for a prolonged period.
3. There are large numbers of restaurants in Shanghai, and none appears reserved for any special section of the population. In the cheapest Chinese restaurant a plate of noodles and meat soup costs JMP 1,000 to JMP 1,200. At medium-grade restaurants a meal composed of two courses of rice, meat and vegetables, and soup costs JMP 3,600 to JMP 5,000. There are still about a dozen Chinese restaurants serving European food in Shanghai, including the Manchuria Restaurant at the corner of Joffre and Cardinal Mercier Streets.¹ Formerly only Europeans were seen in these restaurants, but now the majority of the visitors are Chinese. A meal costs about JMP 8,000 and consists of a large selection of soups and second courses with white or black bread. Dessert is paid for separately. Tipping, which has been abolished, is included in the price.
4. Most of the expensive restaurants have closed for lack of customers. It is forbidden to spend more than JMP 30,000 at a restaurant.² A glass of whiskey costs \$4. People who can afford these prices often do not go for fear of attracting attention. There are no night-clubs. Most of the restaurants close at 11 p.m.; some close at 9 p.m. In the suburbs of the town there are street-bars at which food is served all night.

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There are no cafes in the European style. Cafes are usually attached to restaurants and are visited by Chinese as well as Europeans without class distinction. Prices are high in cafes and visitors few. A cup of coffee costs JMP 5,000 to JMP 6,000. There are many cake shops in which cold drinks are served.

5. There is no food rationing. Government employees and factory workers receive allocations of cheap rice. An average government employee, with a family of four, earns JMP 600,000 per month. Food will cost him about JMP 380,000, transport about JMP 40,000, and rent, electricity, water and taxes about JMP 80,000.
6. There are a large number of motion picture houses in Shanghai, each with four shows daily, each lasting two hours. Shows start at 2 p.m. on week days and at 12 p.m. on Sundays and holidays. The films are either of Chinese production, Soviet (talking Chinese), or from other Eastern bloc countries. Seats cost from JMP 1,000 to JMP 8,000. There are movies with two to four price ranges. Seats can be bought at the box office before the show starts. In smart movies it is possible to reserve seats by telephone.
7. There has been a complete change in the Chinese way of dressing. Chinese now practically never wear European clothes even though they may still have suits from former years. Not more than 30 to 40 percent of the population still wear the traditional Chinese costume. Most people now wear trousers and jacket of dark blue material buttoned to the throat, with a standing collar, and a hat of the same dark material. A similar suit of lighter stuff is worn during the summer, in either light blue or white. On very hot summer days it is customary to wear shorts, with a short sleeved shirt or an undervest. There has been no change in the Europeans' way of dressing.
8. There are certain parts of the town, surrounded by barbed wire, which it is forbidden to enter, including a group of buildings in the Hungjao quarter housing some thousands of Soviet experts.
9. Although both domestic and foreign letters are posted in mail boxes, mail boxes near the central post office or a large post office are usually chosen, because those in side streets are rarely if ever emptied. Letters may be addressed to "poste-restante" but this is not customary in China. The recipient must pay an extra sum for the collecting of his mail.
10. The dispatch of money inside China through the post office or banks is unrestricted.³ About a year ago the sending of money in letters was forbidden. This regulation apparently is used as an excuse for opening all mail. This is not done skillfully. There are very noticeable signs on letters when they have been opened.
11. The following prices apply to letters inside China:
 - a. Between two towns JMP 800
 - b. Between two addresses in the same town 400
 - c. Same town (open envelope) 100
 - d. Registered letter from one town to another 1,600
 - e. Registered letter (same town) 1,200

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12. The following prices apply to letters sent abroad:
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| a. Airmail letters of 10 grams to a Western country | JMP 13,600 |
| b. Airmail letters of 10 grams to an Asiatic country | 7,800 |
| c. Airmail letters of 10 grams to a Soviet bloc country | 5,000 |
| d. Regular mail letters to all countries | 2,500 |
13. All foreign residents, including Soviets, must have a special permit to travel beyond a radius of 10 kms. of Shanghai. To obtain this permit, residents apply first to the Foreign Department of Local Government, located at Broadway near Garden Bridge in Shanghai, for a recommendation, which is then taken to the Foreign Police Section, Carter Road, Shanghai, which issues the permit. Permits are granted only when the authorities have an interest in the journey being made. Details of the permit are not known.
14. Foreign residents cannot buy travel tickets without a travel permit. Tickets can be bought either at the station booking office or at one of the state travel agencies, the China Travel Service, one of which is located at North Szechuan Road near Nanking Road in Shanghai. It is simpler to buy the ticket at an agency, and this is usually done. A Chinese may buy a ticket to Peking, Nanking, and Tientsin without difficulty and without producing any documents, and may travel freely except to a zone in the Canton area.
15. There are no classes on trains. Foreigners have priority in the purchase of sleeping-car tickets on the express trains which now run twice a week from Shanghai, through Nanking and Peking, to Canton.
16. Periodically, vaccination certificates must be produced by applicants for travel permits before entering a station and on entering government offices.
17. A foreigner accompanying a traveller may enter a station without being checked. In order to buy a platform ticket, the applicant's identity card must be handed in at a special office at the station, where the person is asked whom he is accompanying and the name is verified from a list held by the clerk. A receipt is given for the identity card, which is retained at the office. Without this receipt, the platform cannot be entered. Holders of platform tickets must pass a special search by persons of an unknown service, all services now wearing the same uniforms, whose duty apparently is to prevent the export of foreign currency and valuables.
18. It is not customary to travel beyond the suburbs of a town by truck, bus, or bicycle in China. Persons who can afford it and do not fear to attract the attention of the authorities continue to use private automobiles. The number of cars in Shanghai is not large, consisting mostly of pre-1949 American and English models. Bicycles are popular. Only a license number is required.
19. License plates for army, police, government institutions, and civilian residents are made in different colors. Most of the cars in Shanghai have white numbers on black backgrounds, and this is believed to be the color scheme used by army vehicles.
20. The normal means of transport in Shanghai is by bus, streetcar, or trolleybus. Tickets are bought on the vehicle, and prices are according to distance, buses being more expensive than streetcars and trolleybuses.

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A ticket for the shortest ride, three stops, costs JMP 400, and the maximum price is JMP 1,200. Monthly season tickets may be bought at the city transport office. Certain passengers receive tickets in exchange chits given to the ticket seller. It is believed that these persons are police and special government employees. No document checks are carried out on buses, trolleybuses, and streetcars. Police sometimes search vehicles for a particular individual, but even then there is no general check of documents. Large government institutions or factories have their own means of transport. These are usually either buses or trucks with benches.

21. There are no parking stations for taxis and these may not be hailed on the street. The only way to obtain a taxi is to telephone a garage. Travel by taxi is very expensive, costing JMP 20,000 for the first 20 minutes and JMP 1,000 for every additional minute. Night prices are double. Drivers are not seen recording their trips, but it is generally believed that taxi drivers cooperate with the secret police. The number of rickshas in use is dropping off, and no new permits are issued. It is preferable to agree on the price before the ride so as to avoid an argument later, and the possible intervention of the police. A ride of about a kilometer costs about JMP 500. No document checks are carried out in restaurants or motion picture houses.
22. A foreign resident leaving China must go to the district police station two days before the date of departure and have his exit visa stamped and turn in his identity card. This stamp is checked with the exit visa either on the ship or at the frontier station.

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1. Avenue Joffre is now called Huai Hai, Chung (3232/3189/0022); and Route Cardinal Mercier is called Mou Ming, Nan (5399/0682/0589) [REDACTED] new names recently given to Shanghai streets by the Chinese Communists.

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2. [REDACTED] in Harbin in early 1953, a two percent fee was charged on all bills that were over JMP 30,000. This condition probably holds in Shanghai [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] a bill could not exceed JMP 30,000 because of the management's reluctance to put through a government tax payment on bills over that amount.

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3. [REDACTED] lack of restrictions on sending money through the mails in China. [REDACTED]

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